

Phillip Burton's service. Virtually all of the important steps forward taken in America during the turbulent 60's and 70's—civil rights, labor protections, pension security, education, land preservation, national parks—were deeply affected by Phillip Burton's tireless efforts. He was, in the words of Ted Simon in the *Los Angeles Times*, a "stupendous and original figure" who changed the political and legislative landscape as few before him ever dared to imagine.

Surely the greatest disappointment of his life was his failure to become Majority Leader, a race he lost by a single vote. And yet how proud he would be to know that one of his political godchildren—of which I happily count myself as one—would two decades later occupy the highest position in this House held by a Democrat, and the first woman to ever lead a party in Congress, his fellow San Franciscan NANCY PELOSI.

I knew Phil Burton throughout my entire life. He and my father worked together to build the modern California Democratic Party in the years after World War II. Many of the outstanding political leaders of our state, including George Moscone, Willie Brown, scores of members of the Legislature and Congress—including our current senate president John L. Burton—were students, friends and collaborators of Phil Burton.

When I came to Congress in 1975, I was placed on the same committees as Phil—Interior and Education and Labor. As a junior member, I saw first hand his extraordinary political acumen in meeting after meeting, often in his secret office in the Longworth Building, as he planned everything from minimum wage increases to welfare policy, to his historic mega-parks bill, or his even more impressive reapportionment map in 1982. Phil knew more details about any issue than just about anyone I have known here, and he knew more about almost everyone's district, too. Members might beg him to draw a line a little more in their favor, but Phil would be able to recite from memory, and without computers, the precise registration numbers in the newly configured district. "You're in your mother's arms," he'd tell disappointed colleagues, "now get to work."

The Congress and the Nation are very different from when Phil served here. The tone is different; the agenda is different; and our dedication to using the power granted us by the voters to improve the lives of the working people, minorities, the poor, the immigrants and to improve the environment—well, that's very different, too. I'd like to believe we'd be a better country if Phil Burton had gotten to be Majority Leader and Speaker of the House.

Instead, 20 years ago today, we lost a "brawling character and legislative strategist extraordinaire," in the words of Richard Cohen. In the sprawling, wildly popular Golden Gate National Recreation Area that he created—the Nation's most popular urban park—stands for all time an imposing statue of Phil Burton, tie askew, jacket flapping, arm outstretched. It is Phil at full throttle, in command, perpetually barking out a command direction and organizing the troops. There are a number of smaller models of that statue in some offices on the Hill, reminding us what it was like to serve with a true congressional legend, and continuing to summon up the best we have to offer for all the people of this nation.

RECOGNIZING THE DR. SAMUEL D. HARRIS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENTISTRY AS THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENTISTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to announce the introduction of a resolution to recognize the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, located in Baltimore, Maryland, as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States.

As the most comprehensive dental museum in the world, it is a national and international resource whose primary mission is to educate people, especially children, about the history of dentistry and the importance of good oral hygiene. The museum uses state-of-the-art, interactive exhibitions and expert presentations to deliver the message that oral health is important to achieve overall health. Currently, the museum is displaying an exhibit entitled, "The Future Is Now! African Americans in Dentistry."

The museum is affiliated with the University of Maryland at Baltimore, home of the world's first dental school, founded in 1840. It contains hundreds of interesting and significant dental artifacts, not the least of which is George Washington's dentures. It also serves as a national center of learning with an extensive library from which scholars may study the evolution of dental treatment and learn of the numerous accomplishments of the dental profession over the years.

Most importantly, this museum is a reminder to all of us that oral and general health are inseparable, and good dental care is critical to our overall physical health and well-being. While oral health in America has improved dramatically over the last 50 years, these improvements have not occurred evenly across all sectors of our population, particularly among low-income individuals and families. Too many Americans today lack access to dental care. According to the report, "Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General", an estimated 25 million Americans live in areas lacking adequate dental services.

Unfortunately, states are facing extremely tight budgets, and have been forced to implement difficult cost containment measures and unpopular proposals to generate revenue savings—tax increases, cuts in education and cuts/elimination of Medicaid services. As a result, Medicaid programs have taken a direct hit, and dentistry has already become a target for program cuts—17 states reducing or eliminating adult dental services between 2002–2003. As a result, medically needy groups, including the frail elderly, will no longer have access to necessary dental treatment.

Passage of my resolution to make the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry the official national museum of dentistry in the United States will shine a bright light on the problem some Americans face in accessing dental care.

The museum is endorsed by the American Dental Association, National Dental Association, American Dental Education Association, American College of Dentists, International College of Dentists, and the American Academy of the History of Dentistry, among others.

Please join me in supporting this national treasure by becoming a cosponsor of this important resolution. Thank you.

UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the following brief statement speaks for itself with respect to my appreciation for the State of Israel. Israel is presently in the midst of an intense violent struggle which has led to the accumulation of many progressive critics. While I sympathize with the plight of the Palestinian people, I am also convinced that they are primarily the victims of their own leaders—and the jihad fanatics around the world who insist on the use of savage violence to achieve their goals. Israel has no choice but to meet the fanatic violence with violence. Arafat and the Palestinian leadership have set the stage and made the rules for this ongoing destructive engagement. Even if you accept the assumption that the Palestinian people have some legitimate grievances, one can still not condone the method they have chosen to seek solutions. For any group confronted by an overwhelming governing power, Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela have shown the way. The use of nonviolence to petition for the redress of assumed grievances was and still is a choice for the constructive forces among the Palestinians. On the other hand it is a certainty that Israel will never negotiate any change while confronted with the savagery of suicide bombings. We would all like to see this kingpin conflict in the Middle East resolved. I am convinced that it can be resolved permanently and peacefully because Israel is not just another government held together by greed and military power. Israel is the democratic nation guided by a long history of suffering and inspiring human spirits that I describe in this speech at the AIPAC Capitol Club Dinner on March 30, 2003:

I consider it an honor to have an opportunity to reaffirm my unconditional support for the State of Israel. On any major matter involving Israel my vote is always there. I believe firmly and fervently that the salvation of the kind of civilization I want my grandchildren to inherit and enjoy cannot be realized unless we establish many more truly democratic nations all over the globe. Those who believe that more democracy is the answer should also automatically be advocates for Israel. Starting with a constitution which is probably more thorough and more practical than even the United States Constitution, Israel is a model democracy. And woven into the tapestry that makes Israel a great nation are the spirits of Golda Meir, David Ben-Gurion, Menachem Begin and other similar great sages. These spirits accomplish for Israel what the spirits of Jefferson, Lincoln, Truman and others contribute to the definition of America as a nation. We all agree that a nation is more than anyone administration or one set of policies and diplomacy postures. Founding principles and ideals interwoven with the great spirits permanently define a nation. Those who say that Israel is a Middle East outpost for the U.S. or that the

enduring interests of Israel are inextricably interwoven with the interests of the U.S. may not be correct in a formal and legal sense, but the spirit of these positions should be welcomed and appreciated. From the ashes of any temporary crisis or stresses we expect Israel and the U.S. to emerge strongly, fighting together for the same long-term principles and ideals. Temporary disagreements about strategy and tactics must never be allowed to separate us. Based on our individual perceptions and interpretations some of us oppose the war in Iraq; and some others support it. This difference does not break out along any clear ethnic, racial or religious lines. What we must jointly never forget during this current crisis is that there are hostile enemies of democracy and that Israel must be kept strong in order to remain as a model on the front lines fighting to save the kind of government which Abraham Lincoln said should never perish from the earth.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHING FELLOWS ACT

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Teaching Fellows Act of 2003 with fourteen original cosponsors.

The most critical education issue we face is the recruitment and retention of high-quality teachers. In order to keep pace with anticipated retirements and the growing student population, local school districts will need to hire an estimated 2.5 million teachers over the next ten years! These projected shortages are especially serious in some states and districts—especially inner cities and the rapidly growing West and South—and in subjects such as special education, mathematics, physical sciences, and foreign languages.

While all the education improvements and reforms we envision are dependent on a first-rate teaching force, neither political party has given teacher recruitment and retention top billing on its education agenda or has moved beyond stereotypical responses to the challenge.

Neither offering federal stipends or student loan forgiveness to prospective teachers—as proposed by the Clinton administration—nor exhorting individuals to pursue teaching careers—an approach favored by the current administration—is likely to produce the kind of intensive, sustained effort we need to nurture prospective teachers, strengthen their professional identity, and help them succeed once they enter the classroom.

There is no single, simple solution, but I believe that North Carolina's successful Teaching Fellows program offers a model for national emulation. The Teaching Fellows Act would create two federal programs to encourage our best and brightest students to enter and remain in the field of teaching by offering them scholarships as well as professional development and mentoring assistance. One program would offer fellowships and intensive training for high school seniors and college sophomores who want to become teachers, while another would enable teaching assistants and other community college students to

earn their four-year teaching certificates. In exchange, these scholarship recipients would be required to teach for at least four years in a public school or three years in a low-performing school following graduation.

The No Child Left Behind Act requires that every teacher be "highly-qualified" by the 2005–06 school year. In order to meet that need, we must embark on an unprecedented teacher recruitment and retention effort. The Teaching Fellows Act gets to the heart of the need for quality and quantity in America's teaching force. We know that such programs work, and with the federal support this bill would provide, these state programs could be building blocks for the intensive national recruitment and retention effort that is essential to strengthening our public education system.

I would like to invite all members of the House to cosponsor the Teaching Fellows Act, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to make sure our schools will have the teachers they need to be successful.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall votes 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, and 126 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted: "Aye" on rollcall vote 119; "No" on rollcall vote 120; "No" on rollcall vote 121; "No" on rollcall vote 122; "No" on rollcall vote 123; "Aye" on rollcall vote 124; "Aye" on rollcall vote 125; and "Aye" on rollcall vote 126.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2003

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act of 2003." This legislation removes a barrier which has prevented some organizations from donating surplus fire fighting equipment to needy fire departments. Under current law, the threat of civil liability has caused some organizations to destroy fire equipment, rather than donating it to volunteer, rural and other financially-strapped departments.

We know that every day, across the United States, firefighters respond to calls for help. We are grateful that these brave men and women work to save our lives and protect our homes and businesses. We presume that these firefighters work in departments which have the latest and best firefighting and protective equipment. What we must recognize is that there are an estimated 30,000 firefighters who risk their lives daily due to a lack of basic Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). In both rural and urban fire departments, limited budgets make it difficult to purchase more than fuel and minimum maintenance. There is not enough money to buy new equipment. At the

same time, certain industries are constantly improving and updating the fire protection equipment to take advantage of new, state-of-the-art innovation. Sometimes, the surplus equipment may be almost new or has never been used to put out a single fire. Sadly, the threat of civil liability causes many organizations to destroy, rather than donate, millions of dollars of quality fire equipment.

Not only do volunteer fire departments provide an indispensable service, some estimates indicate that the nearly 800,000 volunteer firefighters nationwide save state and local governments \$36.8 billion a year. While volunteering to fight fires, these same, selfless individuals are asked to raise funds to pay for new equipment. Bake sales, pot luck dinners, and raffles consume valuable time that could be better spent training to respond to emergencies. All this, while surplus equipment is being destroyed.

In states that have removed liability barriers, such as Texas, fire companies have received millions of dollars in quality fire fighting equipment. The generosity and good will of private entities donating surplus fire equipment to volunteer fire companies are well received by the firefighters and the communities. The donated fire equipment will undergo a safety inspection by the fire company to make sure firefighters and the public are safe.

We can help solve this problem. Congress can respond to the needs of fire companies by removing civil liability barriers. This bill accomplishes this by raising the current liability standard from negligence to gross negligence. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and look forward to working with the Judiciary Committee to bring this bill to the House Floor.

CRACKDOWN IN CUBA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to submit the following interesting and insightful article for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

WHY THE CRACKDOWN IN CUBA?
(By Wayne S. Smith)

Various newspaper articles reporting the deplorable crackdown on dissidents in Cuba have correctly noted that the situation there earlier had seemed to be inching toward somewhat greater tolerance. During his trip to Cuba in May of last year, for example, President Carter met with Cuban dissidents and in his televised speech to the nation spoke of the Varela Project, an initiative of theirs calling for greater political freedoms. And both before and after Carter's visit, many other Americans, myself included, regularly and openly met with the dissidents as part of a broad effort to expand dialogue and improve relations between our two countries.

Oswaldo Paya, the principal architect of the Varela Project, was even recently allowed to come to the United States to receive the W. Averell Harriman award from the National Democratic Institute in Washington, and from there he went on to Europe. The Cuban government may not have liked what he had to say while abroad, but he wasn't punished for it when he returned home. It did indeed seem that things might